

**Regulation 6141.2: Recognition Of Religious Beliefs And Customs**

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 05/01/1985 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/01/2004~~2024~~ | **Last Reviewed Date:** 03/01/2004~~2024~~

CSBA NOTE: The following administrative regulation is optional and should be modified to reflect district practice:

Education Code 51938 specifies that a parent/guardian may request that his/her child be excused from sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention education; see BP/AR 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction for language implementing this requirement.

CSBA NOTE: The following administrative regulation is optional and should be modified to reflect district practice. Appendix F of the California Department of Education's History and Social Science Framework, adopted in July 2016, offers guidance and support for educators regarding the recognition of religious beliefs and customs; concepts from the Appendix are reflected below.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure the following for the recognition of religious beliefs and customs in district schools:

1. The approach to religion is academic and not devotional
2. The goal is for student awareness of religion in historical and contemporary societies
3. The students may not be pressed to accept any one religion
4. The school may include the study of religion as part of the history-social science curriculum, but the practice of religions may not be sponsored
5. The students may be exposed to and educated about a diversity of religious views and beliefs, but a particular view or belief may not be imposed, nor may any one religion be promoted or denigrated

Staff shall make every effort to schedule one-time events, such as examinations, school-sponsored trips, special laboratories, picture-taking days, and class parties, to minimize conflicts with major religious holidays of all faiths: such that no one faith is disproportionately impacted.

### Programs and Exhibits

When school programs and exhibits are in any way related to instruction about religion or religious holidays, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. The principal or designee shall ensure that school-sponsored programs are presented in an objective manner, consistent with Board policy.

2. The principal or designee shall be kept informed of the program's development.
3. Program or exhibit planners shall take into consideration the diverse religious faiths represented in the community, student body and staff.

**Policy Reference UPDATE Service**

Copyright 2024 by **California School Boards Association**, West Sacramento, California 95691

All rights reserved.

**Policy Reference Disclaimer:**

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

**State**

Ed. Code 38130-38139

**Description**

Civic Center Act

Ed. Code 46014

Absences for religious purposes

Ed. Code 51511

Religious matters properly included in courses of study

Ed. Code 51938

Right of parent/guardian to excuse from sexual health instruction

**Federal**

20 USC 4071-4074

**Description**

Equal Access Act

20 USC 6061

School prayer

20 USC 7904

School prayer

**Management Resources**

Court Decision

**Description**

Cole v. Oroville Union High School District; (2000, 9th Cir.) 228 F.3d 1092

[Court Decision](#)

[Fellowship of Christian Athletes v. San Jose Unified School District Board of Education \(2023\) 82 F.4th 664](#)

[Court Decision](#)

[Florey v. Sioux Falls \(1980\) 619 F.2d 1311](#)

[Court Decision](#)

[Kennedy v. Bremerton \(2022\) 142 S.Ct. 2407](#)

Court Decision

Lassonde v. Pleasanton Unified School District; (2003, 9th Cir.) 320 F.3d 979

Court Decision

Lemon v. Kurtzman; (1971) 403 U.S. 602

[California Department of Education](#)

[Appendix F history social science framework for California public schools](#)

[\(www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/documents/hssappendixf.pdf\)](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/hs/cf/documents/hssappendixf.pdf)

U.S. Department of Education Publication [Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, February 2003](#) [May 2023](#)  
[\(https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer\\_guidance.html\)](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/prayer_guidance.html)

Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Department of Education
Website	CSBA
Website	U.S. Department of Education

## Cross References

Code	Description
0410	Nondiscrimination In District Programs And Activities
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
0450	Comprehensive Safety Plan
1325	Advertising And Promotion
1330	Use Of School Facilities
1330	Use Of School Facilities
5113	Absences And Excuses
5113	Absences And Excuses
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5121	Grades/Evaluation Of Student Achievement
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
<a href="#">5132</a>	<a href="#">Dress and Grooming</a>
5141.31	Immunizations
5141.31	Immunizations
5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression
5145.2	Freedom Of Speech/Expression
6111	School Calendar
6115	Ceremonies And Observances
6115	Ceremonies And Observances
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
6142.93	Science Instruction
6142.94	History-Social Science Instruction
6143	Courses Of Study

6143	Courses Of Study
6144	Controversial Issues
6145.5	Student Organizations And Equal Access
6145.5	Student Organizations And Equal Access
6145.8	Assemblies And Special Events
6154	Homework/Makeup Work
6161.11	Supplementary Instructional Materials
6176	Weekend/Saturday Classes